

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 58

INTRODUCED BY M. MILBURN

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF PUBLIC RECREATIONAL ACCESS TO STREAMS AND RIVERS AT COUNTY ROAD BRIDGE CROSSINGS; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 61ST LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, public recreational access to streams and rivers at county road bridge crossings is an issue of importance to all Montanans, particularly county governments, anglers, recreationists, recreation-related industries, landowners, and livestock owners; and

WHEREAS, attempts to resolve the issue during the 60th Legislature have been unsuccessful because of the lack of a unified proposal that addressed the concerns of all interested parties; and

WHEREAS, a legislative interim study will provide a neutral, balanced forum that affords an opportunity for all interested parties to present their concerns and proposals for resolving the issue, with a view toward presenting unified, agreed-upon legislation to the 61st Legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study the issue of recreational access to streams and rivers at county road bridge crossings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in conducting the study, the committee actively seek and consider input from legislators, counties, recreationists, recreation-related industries, landowners, livestock owners, anglers, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, other land management agencies, and interested members of the public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2008.



